

a difference. It makes a difference. And so that's why I'm traveling the country, and that's why I came here. I'd like for you to contact your Congressman and contact your Senator and tell them to come on the side of the people, when it comes to what to do with your money. We have a fundamental choice, and the right choice is to stand on the side of the people.

And let me conclude by telling you, the tax policy's important, and there will be a lot of tax policy. And of course, good health policy's important, and keeping the peace is important. But there's nothing more important than remembering that the most important job you'll ever have, if you happen to be a mom or a dad, is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul.

I was reminded of that when I walked through and saw the pictures that many of the entrepreneurs here in the Merc had of their children—it's such a refreshing sight to know that priorities are kept all across America.

This is a fabulous nation we live in. It's a nation based upon great values. It's a nation based upon the principle that if you work hard, anybody, regardless of where you're from, can get ahead. But it's going to be made better when all of us understand that there are certain responsibilities in life. I have a responsibility as your President. And when I put my hand on the Bible, I swore to uphold that responsibility, and I will. And you have the responsibility to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. But it all starts with loving your children.

Thank you for letting me come by. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:27 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Scott Gordon, chairman, Chicago Mercantile Exchange; Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago, IL; and Lt. Gov. Corinne Wood of Illinois.

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Adha

March 6, 2001

Warm greetings to Muslims across the United States as you celebrate the Eid al-Adha holiday and join in spirit with the mil-

lions gathered in Mecca to uphold the traditions of one of your most sacred feasts.

America was built on a strong spiritual foundation, and the celebration of faith is central to our lives. As you celebrate the annual Hajj, the fifth pillar of Islam, you honor the great sacrifice and devotion of Abraham as recognized by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. By educating others about your religious traditions, you enrich the lives of others in your local communities.

The variety of nations and cultures represented by those who travel to Mecca each year, and the varied ways in which Muslims contribute to American life across the United States, are powerful reminders that ethnic and racial differences need not divide us when we share common values and purposes. By building strong foundations of mutual respect, we can achieve peace and reconciliation in our world.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a joyous holiday celebration.

George W. Bush

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

March 6, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95-384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2000–January 31, 2001. The previous submission covered events during October and November 2000.

The United Nations continued in its efforts to sustain the proximity talks that started in December 1999. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on
Telecommunications Payments
to Cuba**

March 6, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104–114, 110 Stat. 785, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 6, 2001.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the Trade Policy
Agenda and a Report on the Trade
Agreements Program**

March 6, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), I transmit herewith the 2001 Trade Policy Agenda and 2000 Annual Report on the Trade Agreements Program.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 6, 2001.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
President Kim Dae-jung of South
Korea and an Exchange With
Reporters**

March 7, 2001

President Bush. Everybody in? It's been my honor to welcome President Kim here to the Oval Office. We had a very good discussion. We confirmed the close relationship between our two countries. We talked about

a lot of subjects, and we'll be glad to answer questions on some of those subjects. But first let me say how much I appreciate this man's leadership in terms of reaching out to the North Koreans.

He is leading; he is a leader. He is—and we've had a very frank discussion about his vision for peace on the Peninsula. It's a goal we share. After all, we've got vested interests there, and we had a very good discussion. I made it clear to the President, we look forward to working toward peace on the Peninsula, that we'll consult closely, that we'll stay in touch, that I do have some skepticism about the leader of North Korea, but that's not going to preclude us from trying to achieve the common objectives.

So, Mr. President, welcome. Thank you for being here.

President Kim. First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to President Bush for inviting me to visit Washington and have this meeting with him, despite his very busy schedule. I'm sure, in these early weeks after inauguration.

I'm delighted to have had this opportunity to start building friendship and close cooperative working relationship with President Bush on a variety of issues. I thank the President for sharing his insight and wisdom with me concerning the situation in northeast Asia and the world, in general. And while discussing things with him, I could feel that I was sitting next to a leader who would take the world to greater peace and prosperity in the 21st century.

President Bush and I covered the whole variety of issues in ROK–U.S. relations. It has been a most useful exchange of views. We have agreed to work together towards the further strengthening of the ROK–U.S. alliance, and our close policy coordination in dealing with North Korea towards the goal of ending the cold war and strengthening peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

And taking this opportunity, I would like to invite you, Mr. President, to come and visit us in Seoul, as early as you can, so that we will have another opportunity to further strengthen the close cooperative working relationship between our two allies.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.